

battlefield or in a military hospital, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Walter Reed, Germany, Afghanistan, Iraq, in the hospitals where our troops were taken.

From his own military experience, he would ask them questions very knowledgeably about their unit and what they had encountered and what they had seen. And they all loved seeing him. They knew he was their friend. And so to visit, on the occasions when I had the privilege of visiting with Jack Murtha, was to receive a special welcome from the troops and their families.

One time I remember in particular was we were visiting this young man, it was a second visit, and he managed somehow, when he knew Jack was coming, to get out of his bed. And as we went in the door, there he was standing at attention saluting Jack Murtha in a Steelers jersey. Pennsylvania, how he loved that State, how he worked for it, how we will miss him here.

He had a special way about him, as I have said, by dint of his knowledge, his courage. Imagine the courage it took for Jack Murtha to come to our caucus, to come to the Leader's office and tell me that day, "We have to begin removing our troops from Iraq." He went alone to the press to tell them that. It was like an earthquake in terms of opinion. People who had questions about the war felt validated. People who respected Jack began to question.

One thing was for sure. He was respected by the military. And when he spoke, they knew it was with no agenda except the national security of our country and the safety of our men and women in uniform.

Force protection. He was always talking about that. When we would travel to the war zones, whether it was the seats in the trucks, or the better radios, or whatever, up-armored cars, body armor, you name it, as soon as he saw the need he came back and delivered. So when he did speak out against the war in Iraq, it was really quite a stunning thing for our country. I think it was really historic. It wasn't just that episode, it was that event of national significance, historic significance.

He received, as has been mentioned, the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award. Can you imagine for people of our generation, someone to receive the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award? I will never forget that night. The Kennedy Library, he and Joyce, black tie, beautiful Joyce, proud Jack standing tall like a Marine coming down those steps, being cheered by Democrats and Republicans alike. It wasn't about any partisanship. It was about patriotism.

He was a proud Marine, as we all know. Semper fi was their motto. Semper fidelis. Always faithful. And that was the motto of his life, faithful to God, faithful to country, faithful to his family, faithful to his district.

I can't talk about Jack, just one more moment, if I may, Madam Speak-

er, without talking about the funny stories he always told us about Tip O'Neill. Tip was his mentor. As he mentored so many of us, Tip was his mentor. And he loved Tip O'Neill. And he would tell us the stories of how it was to go to a baseball game with Tip, and this and that and the rest. I won't go into the stories now about peer review, Mr. OBEY, and those kind of appropriations matters. But Tip instilled in him, perhaps he had it innately, but still Tip strengthened in him a pride in this institution that he took very seriously. And he, in mentoring others, passed that pride on to others as well. He loved this Congress, he loved this institution. He left us at the top of his game. We will miss you, Jack Murtha.

Next week we will gather in Statuary Hall with many more friends who can join in, not as we are on the floor of the House, to once again pay tribute to this man. It is hard to believe he is gone. But as he said, "Soldiers can't speak for themselves. We sent them to war, and, by God, we are the ones that have to speak out."

His wife Joyce wants us to have the music God Bless America at the closing of his ceremony next week. God truly blessed America with the life, leadership, and service of Jack Murtha. I hope it is a comfort to Joyce and to the children and grandchildren, of whom he was so proud, that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP OF JACK MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about principled leadership that makes a difference. That best describes the Dean of the Pennsylvania delegation and its longest serving member, Jack Murtha. Yes, Jack Murtha was a Member's Member. He was a soldier's soldier. Always straight shooting, courageous, willing to defend this institution and all of us that work herein.

During my 33 years of service in this body and with Jack Murtha, very few individuals would I turn to for advice and counsel like I would Jack Murtha. Like so many of my colleagues, I have traveled to troubled spots in this world with Jack Murtha. I have read and learned from him not only on these hardworking, hard hitting CODELS, but also from his book, From Vietnam to 9/11. Words of wisdom for all of us here today and for the future.

Many of my strongest memories of Jack Murtha are from our congressional travels together. We traveled to Lebanon in the fall of 1982, following the deployment of U.S. forces as peacekeepers to that country. We stayed in the very same Marine barracks that 6 months later were blown to smithereens.

During our trip in June of 1987 to Angola, it was Chairman Murtha who was successful in securing the release of a downed U.S. pilot from his Congressional district. Later, in August of that same year, we traveled to the Persian Gulf during the U.S. reflagging operation of Kuwaiti ships. A few years later, in January of '93, we traveled on an inspection trip to Somalia, following President George Herbert Walker Bush's December of 1992 dispatch of our U.S. troops there in order to establish order and ensure the success of our humanitarian relief efforts.

The bottom line in all of these travels, of course, as so many of my colleagues can attest, is that around this world our service men and women knew the true character of Jack Murtha.

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They knew the backbone of Jack Murtha, a veteran, a dedicated public servant, an individual who was never too busy or never too selfish to take time to regularly visit our military installations, our military hospitals, to visit our brave, wounded service personnel.

From Chairman Murtha's station atop our Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, our soldiers knew, they were secure in the knowledge that their sacrifices and their dedications were in the best hands in the United States Congress.

I will miss you, Jack. I will miss our true leader. I will miss his courage and his dedication. Our courageous American troops will miss you, Jack Murtha. Our veterans will miss you, and all of America will miss you.

Your family, Joyce, and your children and your grandchildren, to them I extend my thoughts and prayers and know that the memories of Jack Murtha will always instill in his family the inspiration, the pride, the strength, and the love that will carry you on to carry on the brave torch of Jack Murtha.

God bless you, friend.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I want to make note, Madam Speaker, of the fact that the Speaker of the House is here and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee has been here throughout the entire time of this tribute, out of respect. That's old school. Jack was old school. That's what would matter to him. You'd never see him with a BlackBerry. Can you imagine Jack Murtha with a BlackBerry? I am sure he's never used the Internet once in his life.

You know, when we learned of Jack's passing, NORM DICKS and I were on the phone and, between sobs, we, at the

same time, we blurted out the same thing: He was like a father to me. He kind of was. He sort of taught us in his own ways, really, by his conduct, the way we should conduct ourselves in this institution. That's why he is here. He's here. He's left his mark on each one of us individually and collectively. He's done so much to shape this institution.

Family comes first. He would call his daughter, Donna, who's a teacher in Fairfax County schools, every night. Regardless of all the issues he was dealing with with Iraq and Afghanistan and so on, he'd want to know how her kids were doing in class.

And, of course, he adored Joyce. Joyce was the queen. Of course, Joyce would sometimes acknowledge that I know I have to share him with you, NANCY, as Speaker, but he had that kind of reverence that was so important to this institution for leadership and for individuals.

And he was also—he knew how to be a friend. Everyone who walked up to that corner, he welcomed. He knew their name. He made them feel welcome. If they had a letter that they wanted him to read, a little note or something, he'd take the time and read it. He'd say, Come on, sit down beside me.

He also was strong enough that he could afford to be gentle. We know how he reached out to all of the soldiers, the men and women in uniform, really cared about them. He'd go over to Walter Reed. He would go and stand with them, hold their hand at times.

He also did other things that, you know, if I didn't mention it, I doubt that anyone would know, and some people will think they seem a little silly perhaps.

Charlie Horner knows, his long time aide. He heard that Army Navy Country Club had a problem with the cats, that they had proliferated. They were all over the place. And so they decided, we've got too many cats; we're going to kill them all. Jack found that out. It's true, isn't it? But Jack found that out. He called a General and he says, Don't you go killing any of those kitty cats at Army Navy Country Club. And he didn't. They didn't. They all survived.

Just want to share an experience. 9/11, we were debating whether to put money into missile defense or into counterterrorism because Richard Clarke has told us that's the real threat. So it is the morning of 9/11 we were debating it, and Jack had decided the real threat is counterterrorism. And then NORM had seen the TV and the planes going into the World Trade Center, and we could hear this herd of people running down the corridor outside. The Capitol vacated immediately. But there wasn't a sign of anxiety, let alone fear, on Jack's face. I walked out with him.

We stood there in the driveway and all the police were trying to clear everyone. Jack didn't feel any need to move, and he told me this story. He

says, JIM, when I was in Vietnam, I was in a foxhole and we were taking fire. And a young private jumped in the foxhole. There was only room for one person, so I had to get out. And I ran into the line of fire looking for a foxhole and found one. A few minutes later, a grenade landed in that foxhole I had been in, blew the soldier up. Now, this is the soldier, of course, who forced him into the line of fire. And Jack said, I have always felt so bad for that young soldier. I wish I had stayed there and not seen him blown up.

That was the kind of guy he was. He was bigger than life, but his life was really about other people and about this institution and this country.

So Jack, thank you for being who you were and who you are to this institution.

MAN OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, man of the House. The passing from this life of legendary Pennsylvania Congressman and Defense Appropriation Chairman and Marine Colonel John P. "Jack" Murtha truly represents a seismic shift in this Congress and in our Nation's history. His acumen, brass-tacks style, and man-of-his-word reputation are so rare.

As the longest-serving woman in the current U.S. House, I came to know Jack Murtha well, serving with him for 28 years. In early February, he became the longest-serving member of the Pennsylvania delegation in U.S. history.

No one had his grasp of our Nation's defense or his dexterity at ushering the complicated Defense Appropriation bill, the largest in Congress, with nearly unanimous bipartisan support.

Jack put the soldier first. Each branch of the service, plus the Guard and Reserve, owe Jack great gratitude. He was indefatigable in their cause. Jack Murtha respected the awesome power of the U.S. military, but he also knew its limits.

I have never served in this Congress when Jack Murtha wasn't here. Properly, a U.S. flag flown over this Capitol has been placed on his chair in the Pennsylvania corner where he anchored his work on the floor of this House that he loved. His knowledge, leadership, measure, and tutelage remain timeless gifts to those who shared his path.

As the first Democratic woman to serve on the Defense Subcommittee of Appropriations, I can attest, it never would have happened but for his support and encouragement. For his faith in me, I shall always be in his debt as I try to emulate his acuity, his range, and his concern.

We, his subcommittee colleagues, who had the privilege of serving most closely with this giant of a man shall miss him greatly.

When my constituents ask me to describe him, here's what I try to say in his cadence: Man of the House. Marine. Chairman. Colonel. Dean. Authentic. Patriotic. Semper fi. Fearless. Keen. Optimistic. Jovial. With an unforgettable glint in his eyes. Alive. Devoted husband to Joyce, and proud and caring father and grandfather.

To his family, we send our deepest sympathy and our abiding prayers and friendship.

Son of Johnstown. Rough hewn. Battle tested. Two Purple Hearts. A Bronze Star. Not blow dried nor cosmetic. Fiercely loyal to his district and Pennsylvania. In command. Extraordinarily hard working. Kept Marine hours, rising early, arriving early. Always building others. Trusted. Never gave a word he would break. If he said, I'll talk to you about it later, the subject was closed before you knew it. Acute judge of character. Revered counselor to dozens and dozens and dozens of Members and friends. In few golden but choice words, he advised, critiqued, led.

Don't mess with him. Absolutely loved politics. A ticket maker and analyzer. Lots of real friends. Some really cruel enemies. Always had a good word. An author. Well-traveled, too, often to war zones. Visited the wounded and bore that pain close to his heart.

New ideas and insights captivated him. Razor sharp mind. Don't tangle with him unless you know your subject. Memory that could recall votes 10 years ago, and who voted which way. Master of the rules. Wielded the gavel with authority and certitude. Attentive to the floor at all times, even when you thought he wasn't paying attention. Possessed all the attributes to be Speaker, except he came from the working class of people and didn't hail from a financial or government enclave.

Madam Speaker, he instinctively knew how to build a majority. He had lived war, and his heart was always with the soldier.

A giant tree has fallen in the forest. A lion is now at rest. How fortunate we are to cherish his friendship and service. America's defense is the best in the world because Chairman Jack Murtha lived to leave that legacy.

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As the longest-serving woman in the current U.S. House of Representatives, I came to know Jack Murtha well, serving with him 28 years. In early February he became the longest-serving Congressman in Pennsylvania history. He took it upon himself to guide young Members of Congress, particularly if their districts mimicked the hardscrabble nature of his own.

As representative of the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, which extends along the Lake Erie shoreline from Toledo almost to